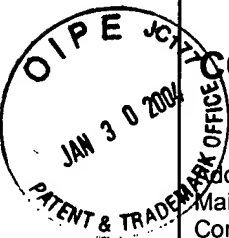


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RCE/1644



<p align="center">REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL</p> <p>Address to: Mail Stop RCE Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450</p>	Application Number	08/981,824
	Filing Date	September 18, 1998
	First Named Inventor	ENDL, et al.
	Group Art Unit	1644
	Examiner Name	Gerald R. Ewoldt
	Attorney Docket Number	2923-393

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application. Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 Note: if the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).
 - a. ☐ Previously submitted
 - i. ☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on _____
 - ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
 - iii. ☐ Other _____
 - b. Enclosed
 - i. ☒ Amendment/Reply
 - ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declarations
 - iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
 - iv. ☐ Other _____
2. Miscellaneous
 - a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.170(i) required.)
 - b. ☐ Other _____
3. Fees The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.
 - a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 02-2135.
 - i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 C.F. R. § 1.17(e)
 - ii. ☒ Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17) **for three (3) months**
 - iii. ☒ Other any additional claims fees.
 - b. ☒ Check in the amount of \$ 1,720.00 enclosed.
 - c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed.)

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY OR AGENT REQUIRED			
NAME AND REG. NUMBER	Patrick T. Skacel, Reg. No. 47,948		
SIGNATURE		DATE	January 30, 2004

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 08/981,824
Applicant : ENDL et al.
Filed : September 18, 1998
TC/A.U. : 1644
Examiner : Gerald R. Ewoldt

Docket No. : 2923-393
Customer No. : 06449
Confirmation No. : 8523

Director of the United States Patent
and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

January 30, 2004

In connection with the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) being filed concurrently, please amend the above-identified application as indicated below and on the following pages. This Amendment and RCE are being submitted in response to the July 30, 2003 Final Office Action, and are accompanied by a three-month extension of time extending the due date for response to January 30, 2004. Accordingly, this reply is being timely filed. Applicants request that this Amendment be entered instead of the previously unentered Amendment of October 30, 2003.

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 11 of this paper.

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